



## Denver Federal Center SITE PLAN STUDY

May 2006

# The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Denver Federal Center

The Master Site Plan Study is intended to establish a long-range vision for the 640-acre Denver Federal Center campus. An important part of the process is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which assesses potential environmental effects of various options and approaches to utilizing site resources.

Since the existing Federal Center Master Site Plan and EIS were completed in 1997, our community has grown and changed. It's time to take a new look at options and possibilities for the future. A new Master Site Plan and EIS will help the GSA accomplish this. Over the course of the 18- to 24-month study, the project team will produce a Draft EIS, a Final EIS and a Record of Decision.

Comments, suggestions and ideas will be gathered throughout the process by engaging federal tenants, community residents, businesses and organizations in a variety of ways, including public and small-group meetings where people can learn more and share their input.

## What is an EIS?

An EIS is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NEPA process is required when projects use federal funds, occur within federal lands or require a federal permitting process. NEPA mandates that federal agencies prepare in-depth studies of impacts

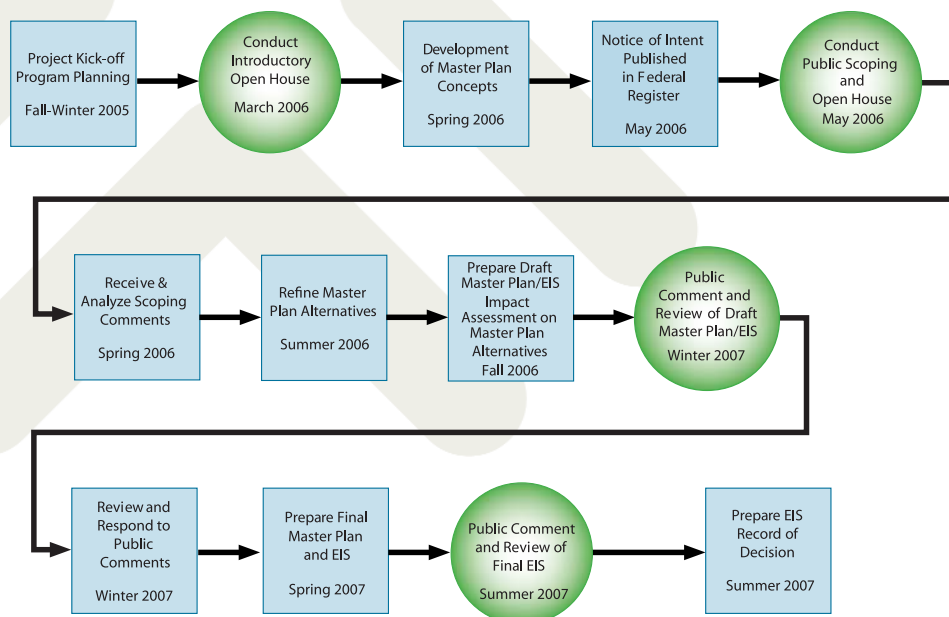
of "major federal actions" that could affect the human or natural environment. It is marked by an initial 45-day public scoping period during which the agency invites individuals, organizations and agencies to submit comments concerning the scope of the review.

The EIS ensures that high-quality environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions

are made, and that agencies fully consider the environmental costs and benefits of their proposed actions before deciding to undertake those actions. The EIS facilitates public involvement and input in the decision-making process.

The graphic below illustrates the process for preparing the Federal Center EIS. The process includes multiple opportunities for public input.

## PLANNING PROCESS



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## Why is Public Involvement and Scoping Important to an EIS?

Public involvement is an important requirement of NEPA and of the project planning process. Scoping is essential for the preparation of an EIS and a useful tool for:

- ✧ Discovering alternatives to a proposed action
- ✧ Identifying significant impacts
- ✧ Eliminating insignificant issues
- ✧ Communicating information
- ✧ Consulting with agencies and organizations
- ✧ Soliciting public comments

## What Areas will the EIS Evaluate?

This EIS will evaluate impacts to resources including:

Land Use	Noise
Socioeconomics	Biological Resources
Transportation	Cultural Resources
Geology/Soils	Visual Resources
Hydrology and Water Quality	Public Utilities and Services
Air Quality	Hazardous Materials

## How Can I Learn More about the Denver Federal Center Master Site Plan Study and EIS?

Contact Lisa Morpurgo, Senior Project Manager, General Services Administration, Denver Federal Center.

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